

**CITY OF NEWARK**  
**Newark, Delaware**

**TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**October 19, 2010**  
**5:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Chief Paul Tiernan, Lt. George Stanko, Rich Lapointe, and Tom Parkins

**Absent:** Carol Houck  
Marvin Howard  
Dave Gula

**Guests:** Stu Markham

**1. REQUEST FOR A CROSSWALK ON ACADEMY STREET IN FRONT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DELWARE SMYTH HALL BUILDING.**

This item will be discussed at the Traffic Committee meeting scheduled for November 16, 2010.

**2. DISCUSS WAYS TO IMPROVE THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK AT CLEVELAND AVENUE NEAR HERMAN'S MEAT MARKET.**

Councilmember Markham asked for a briefing on the sidewalk law. Lt. Stanko said the municipal code states that motor vehicles must yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk. The city code does not state that motorists are required to yield to pedestrians approaching the crosswalk or standing in the crosswalk. A pedestrian may not step into the crosswalk causing a vehicle to come to a sudden stop.

Chief Tiernan said a letter was mailed to DelDOT on behalf of the Traffic Committee requesting the crosswalk on Cleveland Avenue and Wilbur Street be removed and relocated to Cleveland Avenue and Kershaw Street. Chief Tiernan said the committee received verbal approval from DelDOT that the crosswalk would be relocated, however the committee never received a response in writing.

Councilmember Markham inquired as to whether relocating the crosswalk would solve the problem. Lt. Stanko said the problem with the crosswalk located at Cleveland Avenue and Wilbur Street is that it is heading directly into a driveway. Lt. Stanko also said the crosswalk at this location has a poor line of sight.

Lt. Stanko said the police department has received several complaints regarding the short cycle of the traffic light on south New London Road turning left onto Cleveland Avenue. Lt. Stanko said the reason the light is timed for such a short cycle is to not create a significant back up traffic on Cleveland Avenue. Lt. Stanko said if the light was not timed as a short cycle, it would back up traffic on Cleveland Avenue through N. College Avenue. Tom Parkins said in the past it was discussed to add a pedestrian only cycle to all of the College Avenue crosswalks and Delaware Avenue.

Councilmember Markham said it was discussed in the past to remove on street parking from Cleveland Avenue. Lt. Stanko said by allowing parking on the street, it narrows the roadway and creates a traffic calming effect that helps to reduce speeds.

Councilmember Markham inquired if there were time of day options that could be considered. One example would be to synchronize the light at N. College Avenue to provide a break in the traffic. Lt. Stanko said the email recommended adding a HAWK signal. Lt. Stanko said HAWK signals are ideal for midblock crosswalks however, are not designed for intersections that has traffic coming from side streets. Councilmember Markham said the problem he foresees with the HAWK signal is it would be red all the time due to the considerable amount of pedestrian traffic. Lt. Stanko said in order for the HAWK signal to be beneficial it would need to be synchronized with the traffic lights and would be a financial responsibility of DeIDOT. Lt. Stanko said the Newark Transportation Plan is reviewing Cleveland Avenue and Park Place as a way to get bicyclists westbound. Lt. Stanko said he recommends resending a letter to DeIDOT for a response.

Councilmember Markham reiterated that the favorable option would be to remove the crosswalk at Cleveland Avenue and Wilbur Street and relocate the crosswalk to Cleveland Avenue and Kershaw Street. Councilmember Markham said it was also discussed to install a stop sign and realizes this would create a major backup of traffic. In addition, Lt. Stanko said by installing a stop sign it provides a false sense of security and would be disregarded. Councilmember Markham said it was also discussed to add a HAWK signal and realized it would always be red and would add to creating a major backup of traffic. Lt. Stanko said it would need to be synchronized with the existing lights and would be the financial responsibility of DeIDOT.

Chief Tiernan after the follow up letter is sent to DeIDOT he asked Lt. Stanko to have M/Cpl. Davis call and follow up that the letter was received.

Councilmember Markham inquired if his constituent wished to speak with someone regarding the status of this issue whom he should contact. Lt. Stanko said he would be the contact.

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Paul M. Tiernan, Chairman